



**Students' Association
Film and Television Institute of India,
Law College Road,
Pune: 411004**

Pune
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FTII STRIKE: Day 131

The student representatives met the honourable Minister of State Mr. Rajyavardhan Rathore today in Delhi, as in all the previous meetings, looking to arrive at solutions to end the ensuing crisis that arose after the problematic and opaque appointments as soon as possible and assure the students and the larger public that the holistic health of the Film and Television Institute of India is in capable hands, at this most critical juncture since the institute's inception.

In the meeting with the honourable minister, the students once again (like in the previous 4 meetings with the ministry officials) reiterated their concerns over their core issues of the strike, the appointments in the FTII society, and how they felt they epitomized a lot of the systemic problems of the institute. It must be mentioned here that the students and multiple stakeholders of the institute as well as innumerable concerned citizens of this country have through various forms expressed the reasons for their discontent over the core issues of the strike and at a lack of a resolution from the ministry for these 131 days, a truly stupendous amount of time.

Mr. Rathore communicated to us that he would consult with the ministry and get back to us regarding the same, possibly in another meeting sometime in the future. While we are happy to have now established this direct dialogue with the senior most officials of the information and broadcasting ministry, the time period that has been taken while the entirety of the students of the premier film school in the nation are on strike, (still one of the most urgent actions that a student can take in order to show his complete disillusionment with the current workings of his institute) has been thoroughly disappointing and confusing.

As at the time this strike began, the students of the FTII continue to believe that the appointments in the FTII Society of the incumbent government are thoroughly unjust and lack credibility with the same conviction and clarity of thought. That we have not succeeded in getting the powers that be to understand the fact that the students' core demands are the best way to move forward in the best interests of this institute can now less be attributed to an effort on the students part and more to an unwillingness of the authorities to understand the academic and artistic concerns of the students or an inability to act upon them.

We still await a proactiveness from the ministry in terms of resolving the students core concerns, with an urgency that respects the staggering amount of time the students have sacrificed their academics in order to show how urgent and critical it is for them for this issue to be resolved. The students of the FTII have great faith in their collective wisdom that has taken them this far and at the very least initiated a mentality shift in the students and citizens of this nation, to show them that standing up for their rights as a student and a citizen of this great secular nation is something that they are obliged to do, to constantly strive for our development as an inclusive, tolerant and economically developed nation. It is this collective wisdom and also an acknowledgment of the sacrifices the students have already made, in which the students will now decide their future course of action, and in what form they can continue to collectively move forward whilst making their discontent at the functioning of their institute as clear as always have.

Students' Association, FTII

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